**UNEP CP**

A. CP Text: [INSERT AFF ACTOR] will implement the UNEP’s recommendations for integrating environment and natural resource issues into peace building interventions and conflict prevention. Matthew[[1]](#footnote-1) et al ‘09

Since 1990 at least eighteen violent conflicts have been fuelled by the exploitation of natural resources. In fact, recent research suggests that over the last sixty years at least forty percent of all intrastate conflicts have a link to natural resources. Civil wars such as those in Liberia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo have centred on “high-value” resources like timber, diamonds, gold, minerals and oil. Other conflicts, including those in Darfur and the Middle East, have involved control of scarce resources such as fertile land and water.**As the global population continues to rise**, **and** the **demand for resources continues to grow, there is** significant **potential** **for conflicts** over natural resources **to intensify** **in** the **coming decades**. In addition, the potential consequences of climate change for water availability, food security, prevalence of disease, coastal boundaries, and population distribution may aggravate existing tensions and generate new conflicts.**Environmental factors are rarely, if ever, the** sole **cause** **of** violent **conflict**. Ethnicity, adverse economic conditions, low levels of international trade and conflict in neighbouring countries are all significant drivers of violence. However, the exploitation of natural resources and related environmental stresses can be implicated in all phases of the conflict cycle, from contributing to the outbreak and perpetuation of violence to undermining prospects for peace. In addition, the environment can itself fall victim to conflict, as direct and indirect environmental damage, coupled with the collapse of institutions, can lead to environmental risks that threaten people’s health, livelihoods and security.Because **the way** that **natural resources and the environment are governed** has a determining influence on peace and security, these issues **can** also **contribute to a relapse** **in**to **conflict** if they are not properly managed in post-conflict situations. Indeed, preliminary findings from a retrospective **analysis of** intrastate **conflicts over** the past **sixty years** indicate that **conflicts** associated with natural resources are twice as likely to **relapse** into conflict **in** the first **five years**. Nevertheless, **few**er than a quarter of **peace negotiations** aiming to resolve conflicts linked to natural resources **have addressed resource management mechanisms**.The recognition that environmental issues can contribute to violent conflict underscores their potential significance as pathways for cooperation, transformation and the con- solidation of peace in war-torn societies. **Natural resources** and the environment **can contribute to peacebuilding through economic development and** the generation of **employment**, while **cooperation over** the **management** **of** shared **natural resources** **provides** new **opportunities** **for peacebuilding**. These factors, however, must be taken into consideration from the outset. Indeed, deferred action or poor choices made early on are easily “locked in,” establishing unsustainable trajectories of recovery that can undermine the fragile foundations of peace.**Integrating** environment and **natural resources into peacebuilding is** no longer an option – it is **a security imperative**. **The** establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission provides an important chance to address environmental risks and capitalize on potential opportunities in a more consistent and coherent way.In this context, **UNEP recommends** that the UN Peace- building Commission and the wider international community consider the following key recommendations for integrating environment and natural resource issues into peacebuilding interventions and conflict prevention:**1.** Further **develop** UN **capacities for early warning** **and** early **action**: The UN system needs to strengthen its capacity to deliver early warning and early action in countries that are vulnerable to conflicts over natural resources and environmental issues. At the same time, the **effective governance of natural resources** and the environment **should be viewed** **as** an **investment** **in** **conflict** **prevention**.**2. Improve oversight and protection of** natural **resources during conflicts**: The international community needs to increase oversight of “high-value” resources in international trade in order **to minimize** the **potential** for **these resources** to **finance conflict**. International sanctions should be the primary instrument dedicated to stopping the trade in conflict resources and the UN should require Member States to act against sanctions violators. At the same time, new legal instruments are required to protect natural resources and environmental services during violent conflict.**3. Address** natural **resources** and the environment **as part of the peacemaking** **and** peace**keeping process:** During peace mediation processes, **wealth-sharing** is one of the fundamental issues that **can** **“make or break**” a **peace** agreement. In most cases, this includes the sharing of natural resources, including minerals, timber, land and water. **It is** therefore **critical** that **parties** to a peace mediation process **are given** sufficient technical **information** and training **to make informed decisions** **on** the **sustainable use** of natural resources. Subsequent peacekeeping operations need to be aligned with national efforts to improve natural resource and environmental governance.**4.** Include natural resources and environmental issues into integrated peacebuilding strategies: The UN often undertakes post-conflict operations with little or no prior knowledge of what natural resources exist in the affected country, or of what role they may have played in fuelling conflict. In many cases it is years into an intervention before the management of natural resources receives sufficient attention. A failure to respond to the environmental and natural resource needs of the population can complicate the task of fostering peace and even contribute to conflict relapse.**5.** Carefully **harness** natural **resources for economic recovery**: Natural resources can only help strengthen the post-war economy and contribute to economic recovery if they are managed well. The international community should be prepared to help national authorities manage the extraction process and revenues in ways that do not increase risk of further conflict, or are unsustainable in the longer term. This must go hand in hand with **ensuring** accountability, **transparency**, **and** environmental **sustainability** in their management.6. Capitalize on the potential for environmental co- operation to contribute to peacebuilding: Every state needs to use and protect vital natural resources such as forests, water, fertile land, energy and biodiversity. Environmental issues can thus serve as an effective platform or catalyst for enhancing dialogue, building confidence, exploiting shared interests and broadening cooperation between divided groups, as well as between statesThis:

1. Supercharges uniqueness on each net benefit- population growth and warming can only increase demand and thus conflict for resources in coming decades, proving the CP is crucial to manage harms the aff can’t solve for given the plan doesn’t effect underlying causes of conflict.

2. Sidesteps all AC offense and comparison- existent conflict situations do not account for natural resources as a peacebuilding initiative. His solvency becomes mine, since every harm is a consequence of the CP not being implemented.

3. Nonuniques disads- disruption caused by management strategies would be at worst equal to the aff’s mechanism

B. Competition:

1. Mutually Exclusive- the CP allows natural resources to be extracted, it just manages the process and incorporates them into peacebuilding strategies

2. Net Benefits- disadvantages to the aff prove the alternative alone is net beneficial

3. Severance and intrinsicness are voting issues, they explode aff ground by granting the 1AR access to an infinite number of policy options and kill stable advocacy by letting the aff kick out of all links to disadvantages. Ground is key to fairness because equal access to offense determines access to the ballot. Stable advocacy is key to fairness because I can’t engage his arguments if he keeps changing them. Fairness is a voter- it’s constitutive of any competitive activity and drop the debater- the only way to compensate from the time skew of devastating short arguments is a loss.

C.Solvency

1. CP checks post-conflict relapse by providing quick revenue for economy recovery and key services that ensures social stability, and creates a positive feedback loop for institutional stability. Matthew et al[[2]](#footnote-2) 2

Recreating a viable economy after a prolonged period of violent conflict remains one of the most difficult challenges of peacebuilding.69 **A post-conflict state** faces key policy questions on how to ensure macro-economic stability, generate employment and restore growth. It **must** therefore seek to **immediately**(re)establish systems for the management of public finances, as well as monetary and exchange rate policies. This is complicated by the fact that conflict reverses the process of development, impacting institutions, foreign investment, capital and GDP.70Authorities typically need to **identify quick-yielding revenue** measures and priority expenditures **aimed at supporting** economic **recovery and** restoring **basic infrastructure and services**. In a post-conflict situation, **governments** are **also face**d with **high unemployment** rates **that can result in social instability**. **Extractable natural resources are** often **the obvious** (**and only**) **starting point for** generating **rapid financial returns and employment**. However, as illustrated by the cases of Sierra Leone and Liberia (case study 2), the exploitation of natural resources and the division of the ensuing revenues can also create the conditions for renewed conflict. **It is** therefore **vital** that **good management structures are put in place**, and that accountability and transparency are ensured. These challenges are illustrated in case study 9 on the Democratic Republic of Congo and case study 10 on Rwanda.Developing sustainablelivelihoodsThe ability of the environment and resource base to support livelihoods, urban populations and economic recovery is a determining factor for lasting peace. In the aftermath of war, people struggle to acquire the clean water, sanitation, shelter, food and energy supplies on which they depend for their well-being and livelihoods. A failure to respond to the environmental and natural resource needs of the population as well as to provide basic services in water, waste and energy can complicate the task of fostering peace and stability.Sustainable livelihoods approaches provide a framework for addressing poverty and vulnerability in all contexts. They have emerged from the growing realization of the need to put the poor and all aspects of their lives and means of living at the centre of development and humanitarian work, while maintaining the sustainability of natural resources for present and future generations.Collapse of livelihoods from environmental stresses, overuse of assets or poor governance results in three main coping strategies: innovation, migration and competition. Combined with other factors, theoutcome of competition can be violent. For this reason, developing sustainable livelihoods should be at the core of any peacebuilding approach, as discussed in case study 11 on Afghanistan and case study 12 on Haiti.Contributing to dialogue, confidence-building and cooperationThe **collapse of social cohesion and public trust in state institutions is a crippling legacy of war.**71 Irrespective of the genesis of the violence, creating the space for, and facilitating national and local dialogue in ways that rebuild the bonds of trust, confidence and cooperation between affected parties is an immediate post- conflict task. Peacebuilding practitioners are currently discovering new or unseen pathways, linkages and processes to achieve these goals.Experience and new analysis alike suggest that the environment can be an effective platform or catalyst for enhancing dialogue, building confidence, exploiting shared interests and broadening cooperation. The approach can be applied at multiple levels, including between local social groups (across ethnic or kinship lines of conflict), between elite parties or leadership in conflict factions, and at the transnational and international levels.The premise lies in the notion that **cooperative efforts to** plan and **manage shared** natural **resources** **can promote communication** and interaction **between adversaries** or potential adversaries, thereby transforming insecurities and **establishing mutual**ly recognized **rights** **and ex- pectations**. Such efforts attempt to capitalize on parties’ environmental interdependence, which can serve as an incentive to communicate across contested borders or other dividing lines of tension.The shared management of water, land, forests, wildlife and protected areas are the most frequently cited examples of environmental cooperation for peacebuilding, but environmental protection (in the form of protected areas, for example) has also been used as a tool to resolve disputes over contested land or border areas (case studies 13 and 14). Meanwhile, constitutional processes or visioning exercises that aim to build national consensus on the parameters of a new system of governance can include environmental provisions. Issues such as the right to clean air, water and a healthy environment are often strong connecting lines between stakeholder groups with diverging interests. The need for communities to identify risks from climate change and to develop adaptation measures could also serve as an entry point. Finally, as many post-conflict states are parties to international regimes, regional political processes and multilateral environmental agreements, opportunities and support may also exist through these mechanisms.

2. Solves environmental impacts- the AC’s link goes both ways. Matthew et al 3

**a)** **Direct impacts: are caused by** the **physical de- struction of ecosystems** and wildlife or the release of polluting and hazardous substances into the natural environment **during** **conflict**. **b) Indirect impacts: result from** the **coping strategies used by** local and displaced **populations to survive** the socio-economic **disruption** **and loss of** basic **services** caused by conflict. This often entails the liquidation of natural assets for immediate survival income, or the overuse of marginal areas, **which can lead to long-term environmental damage.c)** Institutional impacts: **Conflict** **causes** a **disruption of state institutions**, initiatives, **and** **mechanisms of policy coordination**, **which** in turn **creates** space for **poor management**, lack of investment, illegality, and the collapse **of** positive **environmental practices**. Atthe same time, **financial resources are diverted away** **from** investments in public **infrastructure** and essential services towards military objectives.

EV comparison: top level

Richard Matthew, Oli Brown, and David Jensen, “From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment”. United Nations Environment Programme, February 2009. RP 4/20/14

To broaden UNEP’s expertise and analytical capacity, an Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding was established in February 2008. Coordinated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) the advisory group provides independent expertise, develops tools and policy inputs, and identifies best practices in using natural resources and the environment in ways that contribute to peacebuilding. The group is composed of senior experts from academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and think tanks that have demonstrated leadership in environment and conflict issues (see annex 5).

A joint product of UNEP and the Expert Advisory Group, this paper was co-authored by Richard Matthew of the University of California, Irvine, Oli Brown of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and David Jensen of UNEP’s Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB). It was open for peer review to all UN agencies, programmes and funds working on conflict and peacebuilding, as well as to the Member States and observers of the Peacebuilding Commission. It was also released as a consultation draft at four international meetings during 2008, involving over 250 environment, security, peacebuilding and development practitioners. These included the UN Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned on Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding (8 May), a special event on environment, conflict and peacebuilding at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona (7 October), the Belgo-British Conference on Natural Resources: Challenges and Opportunities (12-13 November) and the NATO Partnership for Peace Workshop on Environmental Security (25-26 November). All substantive contributions received during the consultation process are acknowledged in annex 4.

Mangagement solves conflict- sidesteps AC offense

Richard Matthew, Oli Brown, and David Jensen, “From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment”. United Nations Environment Programme, February 2009. RP 4/20/14

**a)** Supporting economic recovery: With the crucial provision that they are properly governed and carefully managed – “high-value” **resources** (such as hydro- carbons, minerals, metals, stones and export timber) **hold** out **the prospect of** positive **economic** **development, employment and** budget **revenue**. The risk, however, is that the pressure to kick-start development and earn foreign exchange can lead to rapid uncontrolled exploitation of such resources at sub-optimal prices, without due attention to environmental sustainability and the equitable distribution of revenues. When the benefits are not shared, or when environmental degradation occurs as a consequence of exploitation, there is serious potential for conflict to resume.**b)** Developing sustainable livelihoods: Durable **peace** fundamentally **hinges on** the development of **sustainable livelihoods**, the **provision of basic services, and** on the recovery and sound **management** **of** **the** natural **resource base**. Environmental damage caused by conflicts, coping strategies, and chronic environmental problems that undermine livelihoods must therefore be addressed from the outset. Minimizing vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change through the management of key natural resources and the introduction of appropriate technologies should also be addressed.c) Contributing to dialogue, cooperation and confidence- building: The environment can be an effective platform or catalyst for enhancing dialogue, building confidence, exploiting shared interests and broadening cooperation between divided groups as well as within and between states.

1. Richard Matthew, Oli Brown, and David Jensen, “From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment”. United Nations Environment Programme, February 2009. RP 4/20/14 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Richard Matthew, Oli Brown, and David Jensen, “From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment”. United Nations Environment Programme, February 2009. RP 4/20/14 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)